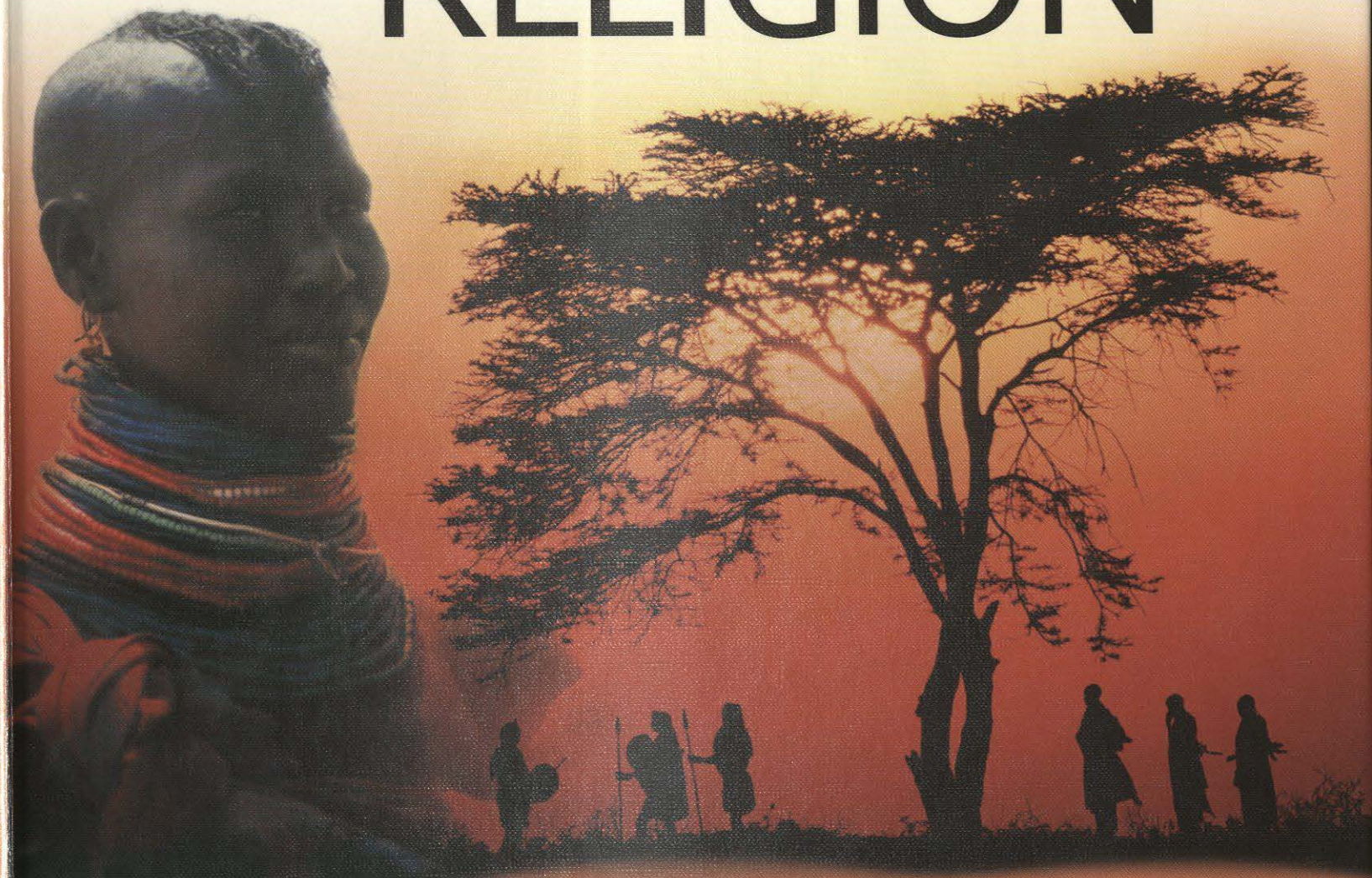
ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AFRICAN RELIGION



EDITORS
MOLEFI KETE ASANTE
AMA MAZAMA

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ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AFRICAN RELIGION

EDITORS

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TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

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Reader's Guide

The Reader's Guide is provided to assist readers in locating articles on related topics. It classifies entries into 16 general topical categories: Ancestral Figures; Communalism and Family; Concepts and Ideas; Deities and Divinities; Eternality; Nature; Personalities and Characters; Possessors of Divine Energy; Rituals and Ceremonies; Sacred Spaces and Objects; Societies; Symbols, Signs, and Sounds; Taboo and Ethics; Texts; Traditions; and Values. Entries may be listed under more than one topic.

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About the Editors

Molefi Kete Asante is professor in the Department of African American Studies at Temple University. Dr. Asante has published 67 books; among the most recent are *Afrocentric Manifesto* (2008); *The History of Africa: The Quest for Eternal Harmony* (2007); *Cheikh Anta Diop: An Intellectual Portrait* (2006); *Spear Masters: An Introduction to African Religion* (2006), coauthored with Emeka Nwadiora; *Handbook of Black Studies* (2005), coedited with Maulana Karenga; *Encyclopedia of Black Studies* (2005), coedited with Ama Mazama; *Race, Rhetoric, and Identity: The Architecton of Soul* (2005); *Erasing Racism: The Survival of the American Nation* (2003); *Ancient Egyptian Philosophers* (2000); *Scattered to the Wind* (2002); *Custom and Culture of Egypt* (2002); and *100 Greatest African Americans* (2003).

He has recently been recognized as one of the most widely cited scholars. In the 1990s, he was recognized as one of the most influential leaders in American education. Dr. Asante completed his MA at Pepperdine and received his PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles, at the age of 26, and was appointed a full professor at the age of 30 at the State University of New York at Buffalo. At Temple University, he created the first PhD program in African American Studies in 1987. He has directed more than 140 PhD dissertations. He has written more than 300 articles for journals and magazines and is the founder of the theory of Afrocentricity.

Dr. Asante was born in Valdosta, Georgia, in the United States, of Sudanese and Nigerian heritage, 1 of 16 children. He is a poet, dramatist, and painter. His work on African language, multiculturalism, and human culture and philosophy has been cited by journals such as the *Africalogical Perspectives*, *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, *Journal of Black Studies*, *Journal of Communication*, *American Scholar*, *Daedalus*, *Western Journal of Black Studies*, and *Africaological Perspectives*. The *Utne Reader* called him one of the "100 Leading Thinkers" in America. Dr. Asante has appeared on more than 50 TV programs. In 2002, he received the distinguished Douglas Ehninger Award for Rhetorical Scholarship from the National Communication Association. He regularly consults with the African Union. In 2004, he was asked to give one of the keynote addresses at the Conference of Intellectuals of Africa and the Diaspora in Dakar, Senegal. He was inducted into the Literary Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent at the Gwendolyn Brooks Center at Chicago State University in 2004, and he is the recipient of more than 100 national and international awards, including three honorary degrees.

Dr. Asante is the founding editor of the *Journal of Black Studies* (1969) and was the president of the civil rights organization, the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee chapter at UCLA, in the 1960s. In 1995, he was made a traditional king, Nana Okru Asante Peasah, Kyidomhene of Tafo, Akyem, Ghana.

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